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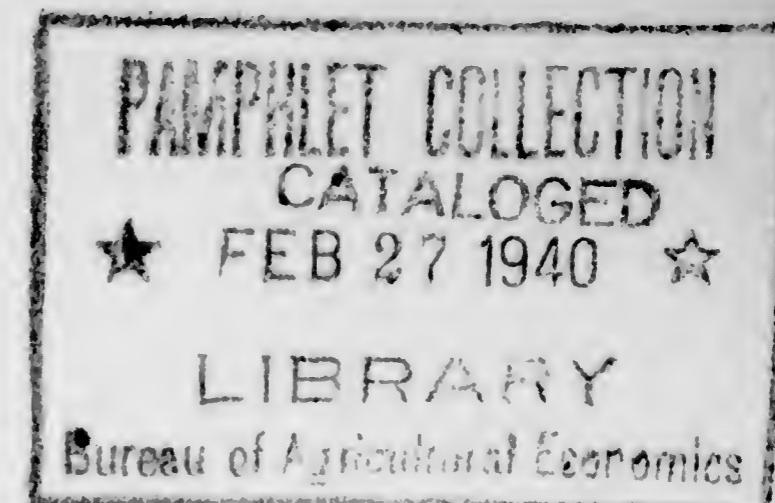
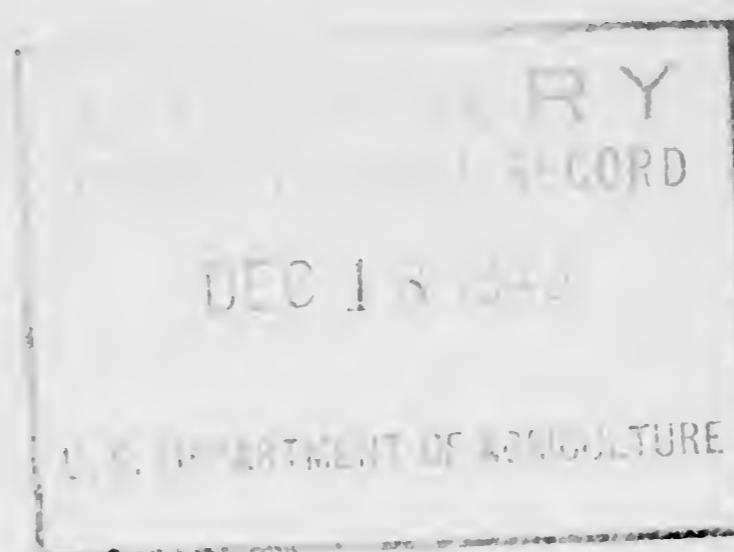
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THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS

IN

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

1938

SEASON

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Jas. L. States,  
Acting Director

BUREAU OF MARKETS  
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INV. '80

THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

D. M. James

The production of fruits and vegetables for canning or processing has become the fastest growing agricultural enterprise in the Commonwealth. As recently as 1924, vegetables for canning were grown on only 7,740 acres of Pennsylvania farm lands. This compares with 36,000 in 1938, is an increase of 365% in 14 years. In addition to this increase in vegetable canning, the canning of mushrooms (85% of the total canned in U.S.), apples and apple products, cherries and many specialty products such as soups, condiments, preserves, etc. have also forged rapidly upward in recent years.

In reviewing the cannery products grading in the pages that follow, the steady growth of this standardization work is apparent. (See Table No. 1) The total of 193,600,000 pounds of apples, cherries, grapes, berries, plums, pears, corn, lima beans and tomatoes graded at 44 factories during 1938 is far removed from the initial inspections of 235,000 pounds of tomatoes at 3 factories in 1927. Total volume graded in 1938 is 20% over 1937 and 43% over 1936.

Probably the most significant feature of grading is that growers and canners are both benefited. Canners gain by lower cost of production and in higher quality of finished product. Growers receive greater income per ton and per acre for their crops. Because of these advantages, a continued expansion in this work is expected during the next few years and more particularly on such crops as peas and corn, which have more recently come into the inspection field, than on crops such as tomatoes, apples and sour cherries of which most of the Pennsylvania production is already inspected.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture takes this means of expressing appreciation to both growers and processors of canning crops through whose hearty cooperation this inspection program has been successfully built.

Table 1 - Cannery Crops Inspected by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
(1927-1938)

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
	T	H	O	V	S	A	N	D	P	O	U	D
Totals	163,600	161,141	135,103	102,734	74,920	46,716	68,697	53,454	43,793	13,488	8,842	235
Apples	-	55,819	34,218	58,754	48,233	35,553	22,983	41,972	32,114	36,453	8,956	2,284
Berries	-	73	--	344	--	12	19	--	--	--	--	--
Cherries	-	4,166	7,707	4,984	4,997	2,051	307	657	2,479	2,710	--	--
Corn	-	13,421	5,860	1,320	1,193	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grapes	-	10,540	10,680	10,540	9,109	6,397	3,400	3,914	5,176	3,005	1,802	5,653
Lima Beans	-	273	159	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Peas	-	4,722	3,705	1,009	1,044	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Plums	-	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Snap Beans	-	--	--	--	--	--	--	112	320	132	373	--
Tomatoes	-	104,565	69,192	57,952	38,158	30,907	20,007	21,694	13,364	1,493	2,357	905

BULK APPLE GRADING - 1938

For the ninth consecutive year a large part of the tonnage of apples for canning were purchased on the basis of Federal grades. In addition to canning stocks, apples delivered for sale as fresh were classified for grade at several packing houses.

Bulk apples graded by State inspectors in 1938 totaled 55,819,000 pounds compared with 64,218,000 lbs. in 1937.

Inspectors were located at the following receiving-points to inspect bulk apples in 1938:

Coop. Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Aspers
Coop. Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Seven Stars
M. E. Knouse Corporation	Peach Glen
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
C. H. Musselman Company	Gardners

SOUR CHERRY GRADING - 1938

The volume of sour cherries inspected declined rather sharply for 1938 in comparison to the all-time high of over 7 million pounds in 1937, due chiefly to the exceptionally short crop in the southern part of the State. Erie County's crop was slightly above average production. The grades averaged 92% U. S. No. 1 and 8% culls compared to 91% U.S.No. 1 and 9% culls in 1937.

Practically all sour cherries purchased in the State for processing are being purchased under State inspection.

Inspectors were located at the following receiving-points in 1938:

C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
W. E. McIntosh	North East
Keystone Coop. Grape Assn.	North East
Todkill & Chapman	North East
Sunshine Packing Company	North East

PEA GRADING - 1938

The volume of peas graded in 1938 increased 28% over 1937, totaling 4,722,000 pounds compared to 3,705,000 a year ago. The quality of the peas was somewhat lower than in 1937. Average grades were 60% Fancy, 25% Extra Standard and 15% Standard. The two canneries that purchased peas under State inspection were Hillboro-Queen Anne Cooperative, Bloomsburg, and Bloomsburg Packing Co., Bloomsburg, Pa.

Five additional pea canneries in the State used various methods of experimental grading under State supervision, their tonnage not being included in the above.

GRAPE GRADING - 1938

The 1938 season marked the tenth consecutive year that Pennsylvania grape growers have sold their grapes to juice plants under State inspection. The volume in 1938 was practically the same as 1936 and only slightly lower than 1937 season when it reached an all-time high of 10,860,000 pounds.

CORN GRADING - 1938

The volume of corn graded reached a new all-time high with over 13,000,000 pounds which is an increase of 129% over the 5,860,000 pounds graded in 1937. Four canneries taking advantage of the service were able to return more per ton and per acre to their growers than did canneries who purchased on a flat rate basis, and in addition were able to pack a higher quality product.

Inspectors were located at the following receiving-points to inspect corn in 1938:

Chas. G. Summers, Jr., Inc.	New Freedom
Geo. T. Smith	New Park
Jas. T. Smith	Fawn Grove
Bloomsburg Packing Co.	Bloomsburg

**END OF YEAR**